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in some degree, interesting. If any farther apology should be thought necessary for my troubling you, gentlemen, with my sentiments on this question, I beg leave to remind you, that in almost every cultivated age and country, philosophers have thought that they were not altogether uselessly employed in collecting materials for the natural history of an animal so interesting to mankind as the BEE.

Benjamin Smith Barton.

N^o. XXXII.

An Account of a Comet.

DEAR SIR,

Read Feb. 15th, 1793. **O**N the 11th of January last, in the evening, I discovered a comet in the Constellation Cepheus. That night and the following it appeared, to the naked eye, superior in brightness to a star of the 2d. magnitude. On the 13th, it was evidently diminished, and it continued to grow more faint until about a week ago, when it disappeared. It passed very rapidly through Cassiopea, Andromeda, the Triangle and Aries. January the 17th, it was near the first star of Aries, and on the 31st very near Flamsteed's 84th star of the Whale, and a little further south I saw it, for the last time, on the evening of the 8th of February.

Dear Sir,
Yours, &c.

DAVID RITTENHOUSE.

To Robert Patterson, Secretary to
the Philosophical Society.

N^o XXXIII.